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Remarks/Arguments

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1-5 have been rejected and claims 6-11 have been objected to. Claims 1-11 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 5 and 6-7 have been objected to because of minor informalities in Formula II and Formula III. Claims 7-11 have been objected to as being in improper form because claims 7-11 are multiple dependent claims. In response, formula II and formula III in claims 5 and 6, respectively, have been amended as suggested by the Examiner and claims 7-11 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

In view of the above, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,600,641 (Ogawa et al.). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusion and submit that amended independent claim 1 and amended claims 2-5 are not anticipated by Ogawa et al. for the reason stated below.

Independent claim 1 as amended recites in the preamble a divinylbenzene cross-linked polystyrene polymer. This polymer comprises a side chain of the formula I. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the specification, e.g., page 5, lines 30-34, and in Schemes 1, 2 and 3 on pp. 10, 12, and 13, wherein the backbone of the polymer is indicated in the structure as "Polystyrene". While Ogawa et al. describe a polymer: $-\text{[CH}_2\text{-CH(CONH}_2\text{)]}_x\text{-[CH}_2\text{-CH(R)]}_y\text{-[CH}_2\text{-CH(R')]}_z$ for an adhesive layer, wherein $\text{R}=\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-CH}_2\text{SO}_2\text{CH=CH}_2$, Ogawa et al. do not describe a divinylbenzene cross-linked polystyrene polymer as recited in the preamble of amended claim 1, which polymer comprises a side chain of formula I. Since Ogawa et al. do not identically describe the polymer as set forth in amended claim 1 Ogawa et al. do not anticipate amended claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ogawa et al. is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP63-22-239 (Noriki et al.).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusion and submit that amended independent claim 1 and amended claims 2-5 are not anticipated by Noriki et al. for the reason stated below.

As stated above, independent claim 1 as amended recites in the preamble a divinylbenzene cross-linked polystyrene polymer. This polymer comprises a side chain of the formula I. While Noriki et al. describe a polymer: $-\text{[CH}_2\text{-CH(COOC}_2\text{H}_5\text{)]}_x\text{-[CH}_2\text{-CH(C}_6\text{H}_5\text{)]}_y\text{-[CH}_2\text{-CH(C}_6\text{H}_4\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_2\text{CH=CH}_2\text{)]}_z$ (Formulae p-6 and p-7 on page 328), Noriki et al. do not describe a

divinylbenzene cross-linked polystyrene polymer as recited in the preamble of amended claim 1, which polymer comprises a side chain of formula I. Since, Noriki et al. do not identically describe the polymer as set forth in amended claim 1 Noriki et al. do not anticipate amended claim 1.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Noriki et al. is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. At this time, Applicants decline the Examiner's invitation to amend claim 6.

A good faith effort has been made to place the present application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be of value, she is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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